

NEW YORK INTELLIGENCER

Frost and Helms: Will the Superspook Sing?



Q. and A.: Possible guest (above), possible questions (below).

The guest list for *Headliners With David Frost*, which debuts on NBC at the end of this month, is as closely guarded as state secrets used to be. But insiders report that Frost may be planning to interview the elusive former CIA Director Richard Helms. We hear that Helms is looking for an opportunity to present his side of the story, an answer to charges that he deliberately misled Congress about CIA activities—one that has been delayed by his legal plea of nolo contendere. And Frost would certainly be pleased at the opportunity to grill the controversial Helms about his stewardship at the spook factory. Here are a few questions Frost might ask, and that would cause Helms con-

siderable discomfort.

☐ Did Israel pilfer the materials required to build an atom bomb during the 1960s? If so, did LBJ tell you to keep that information from Congress?

☐ Why did you destroy all your personal records as director in January 1973, only a week before you left the agency? (The suspicion is that Helms's records contained material relevant to the Watergate investigation. Helms assured Congress there was no such material and explained that his private secretary had conducted a search and had come up with nothing—just before the files were destroyed.)

☐ When the FBI ended its liaison with the CIA in 1971, was it because the CIA re-

fused to relent in its suspicions that two prime FBI sources—code-named "Top Hat" and "Fedora"—were disinformation agents planted by the Soviet Union?

☐ Why did you ignore the protests of younger CIA personnel over Operation Chaos? (Operation Chaos was a domestic-surveillance program of dubious legality which Colby later helped expose.)

☐ Former CIA Director William Colby told the attorney general that you might well have committed perjury in your testimony to Congress about Chile. If you were to meet Colby now, what would you say to him?

☐ Would you mislead Congress and the American people again about what you did as director of the CIA?

File